

Spring 1998

Liberal Arts - Spring 1998

University of Mississippi. College of Liberal Arts

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Recommended Citation

University of Mississippi. College of Liberal Arts, "Liberal Arts - Spring 1998" (1998). *Liberal Arts Newsletters*. 21.
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ON THE COVER...

Newly renovated Ventress Hall.
Photograph by Robert Jordan.

LIBERAL ARTS



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

SPRING 1998

College of Liberal Arts Gets New Home in a Historic Hall

BY DAVID B. DENISON

For the past year Ventress Hall, one of the University's oldest and most familiar buildings, has undergone renovations preparing it for use as the new home of the administration of the College of Liberal Arts. Found along the main entrance to campus overlooking the Grove, Ventress Hall has helped shape the Ole Miss landscape with its distinctive appearance for more than a century.

The extensive renovation and preservation of the building, at a cost of about \$950,000, was completed early in 1998. The architectural firm Howorth & Associates of Oxford directed the project. A dedication ceremony, held April 28, officially reopened the building.

In its new incarnation, Ventress provides space for the entire office of the dean of the College of Liberal Arts. In recent years, the dean's staff has been housed in both the Lyceum and LaBauve Hall. The new quarters can accommodate all members of the staff, including a second associate dean, who will be hired in 1998. "Having

all personnel in the same location will allow for greater efficiency," among other benefits, said H. Dale Abadie, dean of the college. "We are quite pleased to occupy offices in a building with such historical significance to the University."

Since its construction in 1889, the building has served many functions. Originally built to house the library, it served as the School of Law from 1911 to 1929. The building then became the office for the State Geological Survey, and was later assigned to the Geology Department. Most recently the building has accommodated art classes. Ventress Hall was named after James A. Ventress, often called the Father of The University of Mississippi.

Such a revered old building required special care during its renovation. One item that demanded particular attention is a stained glass window installed in memory of the University Greys, the military unit made up of Ole Miss students who fought for the Confederacy. Ventress Hall was the first building built on campus after the



[CONTINUED ON PAGE 10]

THE DEAN'S COLUMN

WE ARE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE *LIBERAL ARTS*, a publication that will keep alumni and friends of the College of Liberal Arts informed about the activities of its students, faculty, and staff, as well as of the general health and progress of the College. The newsletter, long-planned, is now made possible by the support of the Ventress Order, a new organization devoted to strengthening the College of Liberal Arts in many ways.

The first issue of *Liberal Arts* comes at an opportune moment in University history. 1998 brings to a close the four-year Sesquicentennial observance of our origins, culminating with appropriate climactic ceremonies in November. This year also marks the first time in its history that the College occupies offices outside the Lyceum. Our move to the beautifully restored Ventress Hall, known to decades of alumni as the "Old Geology Building," occurred this spring, with dedication ceremonies in late April. We now proudly inhabit the grand old building that was built in 1889 overlooking the Grove and the Lyceum Circle.

The excitement that accompanies our move to Ventress Hall is typical of a larger and broader enthusiasm found on campus these days. The exhilarated spirit derives from, and is demonstrated in, many developments taking place on the Oxford campus. These include an unprecedented program of new construction and renovations; the Phi Beta Kappa initiative; the first steps toward a core curriculum; and two newly established units, the McDonnell-Barksdale Honors College and the Croft Institute for International Studies, both of which, though not housed administratively in the College, by nature include Liberal Arts students and faculty as their key players. The list could go on.

What stands out among these ventures is their reliance, in large part, on private support resulting from the generosity of friends of the University and the College of Liberal Arts. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the Ventress Order, an organization of College supporters whose contributions make this publication possible and, more importantly, provide the margin of support that guarantees for our students the quality of education that has come to be associated with Ole Miss. Begun just over a year ago with the assistance of the Alumni Association and The University of Mississippi Foundation, the Order already has more than 100 members who have pledged half a million dollars in support of College programs. To them we are deeply indebted, and from them and other supporters we draw our inspiration as the College celebrates the Sesquicentennial and, with confidence, faces the future of a new millennium.

The College faculty, staff, and students hope that you will let us hear from you and that you will visit the campus whenever possible so that you might observe our progress and enable us to thank you in person for your continuing support and encouragement.

—H. DALE ABADIE

The College of Liberal Arts

Founded in 1848 with only four professors, the College of Liberal Arts is the oldest and largest division of The University of Mississippi. The College offers a broad and comprehensive course of study including most areas of knowledge in the humanities, the fine arts, and the biological, physical, and social sciences.

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This publication is gratefully funded by The Ventress Order, an organization established by The University of Mississippi Alumni Association in cooperation with The University of Mississippi Foundation to enhance the total offerings of the College of Liberal Arts. Active membership in The University of Mississippi Alumni Association helps make *Liberal Arts* possible. Active members have **** on their mailing labels. Please contact the Dean's office, College of Liberal Arts, if you have any questions or comments.

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Hardin Challenge Grant Boosts Liberal Arts

BY MELISSA KAHLSTORF

A recent \$450,000 challenge grant from the Phil Hardin Foundation—supporting an overall University effort to obtain a chapter of the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society—will greatly benefit the College of Liberal Arts.

The Hardin grant, the largest in the foundation's history, is to be matched on a 2-to-1 basis by Ole Miss. The University must raise its \$900,000 by Dec. 31, 2000, to obtain the full \$450,000 from the challenge grant.

With the grant, the endowment of the Arts and Sciences Faculty Excellence Fund will move closer to its goal of \$1 million to provide a permanent base of annual support for faculty and program renewal in liberal arts courses. The fund was established in 1986 through a joint challenge grant from the CREATE Foundation of Tupelo and the Hardin Foundation of Meridian.

The annual income from the fund's endowment provides professors' travel expenses to national and major regional meetings and conferences, and to scholarly libraries, research centers, and other resource sites. The fund also supports faculty teaching resources and workshops at the University for improvement in arts and sciences courses.

"This area of the grant will strengthen the faculty, which will improve the quality of education, with students being the ultimate beneficiaries," said H. Dale Abadie, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

In addition, three endowed Faculty Fellowships in the Arts and Sciences will be created. The fellowships will provide outstanding faculty members with \$10,000 a year to pursue new developments in their fields through travel and study. Appointments will be for one year, with

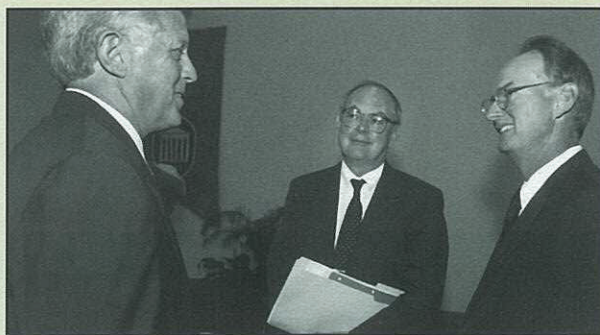
the possibility of renewal for up to two additional years.

The improvements to the College of Liberal Arts are important to the University, particularly in keeping with the overall purpose of the Hardin challenge grant: to help ensure that Ole Miss meets Phi Beta Kappa criteria. The honor society

evaluation includes studies of the University's endowments, library holdings, technological resources, and strength of the College of Liberal Arts, among other things.

The Phi Beta Kappa quest has been a long process aided greatly by the Hardin Foundation, established in 1964 by Meridian banker Phil Hardin and dedicated to improving the education of Mississippians.

The \$450,000 challenge grant is the largest gift the Hardin Foundation has ever awarded. According to Tom Wacaster, vice president of educational projects and research, the foundation's board thought the Phi Beta Kappa opportunity at Ole



Hardin Foundation officers Tom Wacaster (center) and Robert Ward (right) joined Chancellor Robert C. Khayat to announce the challenge grant.

THE HARDIN GRANT WILL CONTRIBUTE:

- \$150,000 to increase the Arts and Sciences Faculty Excellence Fund, which promotes effective teaching and scholarship and encourages professional development of faculty members.
- \$200,000 to endow three Faculty Fellowships in the Arts and Sciences, recognizing and rewarding outstanding faculty performance and potential.
- \$100,000 to purchase the Kenneth and Rochelle Goldstein Folklore Collection for the University's libraries, expanding total holdings to more than 1 million volumes.

Miss was a rare chance to move an institution to the next level of excellence.

"There is a long-standing belief that education in arts and sciences helps generate the kind of leadership with history and values that encourage critical thinking," said Wacaster. "These are characteristics all people, especially leaders, will need in the next centuries."

Individuals wishing to help UM raise the \$900,000 needed to receive the Hardin grant should direct their contributions to The University of Mississippi/Hardin Foundation Challenge Grant, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677.

For more information about the challenge grant, contact The University of Mississippi Foundation at 601-232-5944 or 800-340-9542.

Private Gifts Create Top-notch Physiology Lab

BY LYNN MCKNIGHT

Whether they're studying the cardiac function of a turtle or the regulation of skeletal muscle contractions in a frog, UM students taking Introductory Physiology during the spring semester reaped the benefits of a totally renovated, research-grade laboratory.

Gifts from Dr. Thomas Frist Sr. of Nashville, Tenn., and from the Medical Support and Development Organization Inc. of Jackson, Miss., made the new facility in Shoemaker Hall possible. The three-room lab, equipped with sophisticated research instruments and 10 Internet-wired computers, is a state-of-the-art teaching facility serving about 150 students who took Biology 330 this spring.

"The contributions made it possible for us to develop one of the finest and most modern physiology teaching facilities in the region," said Gary L. Miller, department chair and professor of biology. "There is no doubt that our students will leave here having had a unique opportunity to use research- and clinical-grade instrumentation to learn physiology."

The students' teacher, Andrew "Drew" Crain, is a new addition to the Department of Biology faculty. A recent graduate of the University of Florida, Crain was drawn to Ole Miss by the opportunity to teach physiology ("It's what I think I'm best at," he says) and especially the chance to outfit a new lab with top-notch equipment.

On a recent tour of the new teaching lab, Crain emphasized the high quality of the equipment students are using. Computers top the list in importance.

"They're critical in a physiology lab these days," Crain said. "After every experiment, the students do statistics, graphing, everything on the computer. I treat every lab like they're going to be publishing a paper. They do the experiment, the analysis, then they have to learn to communicate what they've found."

Whether physiology students plan to be doctors or

research scientists, Crain said, they need to know each step of the process and especially how to communicate what they discover during their research.

In an experiment looking at the effect of different chemicals on muscle contraction, for example, students expose the muscle to solutions of ATP (adenosine triphosphate, a source of energy for physiological reactions), salt, calcium, and then a combination of the three. Only the combination causes contraction. Students then use the computer to chart the results on a bar graph, and they add printouts to their lab notebooks.

Next they use Internet research to discover what other scientists have found on the same topic. Connecting to an on-line bibliographic service called Medline, maintained by the National Institutes of Health, the students search for citations on research related to their experiment. For some labs, the students write a follow-up paper on their findings.

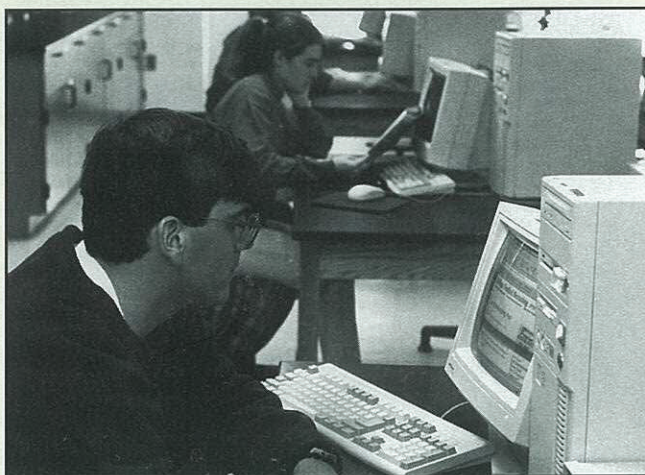
"Computers brought us into modern times, allowing

us to make figures, manage data, then research other studies, thus completing the research cycle," Crain said.

The computer links to other research also help the students make larger connections. For example, during one recent lab the students studied the effect of testosterone injections in chickens and found that the testosterone altered normal kidney function. "Then they saw that athletes are injecting testosterone, so they can then say, hey, this may be having a negative effect in humans," Crain explained.

Each computer also offers a tutorial system that supplements the textbook. "Essentials of Human Physiology: A Multimedia Resource," put out by the Medical College of Georgia, takes students through each of the systems of the human body with explanations and exercises.

Beyond computers, the lab has compound and dissection microscopes, pH meters, balances, a rotator and a mixer, a refrigerator and an incubator, and pipettes for precise volume



Physiology students analyze data and conduct research on-line in their new lab.

control in experiments. Gel electrophoresis devices separate proteins based on molecular weight. A flame photometer measures sodium and potassium, some of the major ions involved in osmoregulation. Other equipment can measure the activity of nerves, with results showing directly on the computer.

"Most of the equipment in here is research grade," the same quality professional and scholarly investigators would use, Crain said. "We wanted the students to be using real research equipment."

Crain emphasized the value of the sophisticated lab experience, which enriches the lecture material in countless ways. "Not only are the students hearing about a topic in lecture, they're seeing it in the lab," he said. "It's not theo-

retical any more. They can actually see it. That wasn't true five to 10 years ago."

During the spring, physiology students studied such topics as human respiration, cardiac function, regulation of plasma ions in the turtle kidney, osmotic relations in the fiddler crab, compound action potentials in frog sciatic nerves, measurement of steroid hormones in blood samples, and fertilization in tadpoles. Physiology is one of the core courses in the Biology Department.

"Physiology is central to a comprehensive curriculum in biology," said Miller, the chair of the department. "All of our students, regardless of their career intentions, are expected to master the principles of physiology."

Math Professor Spearheads \$16 Million Delta Project

BY CHRIS THOMPSON

A \$16.6 million project administered by The University of Mississippi will provide aid for math and science programs to more than 100 rural school districts in three states.

The Delta Rural Systemic Initiative, engineered by Charles Alexander, an Ole Miss professor of mathematics, received a \$10 million award from the National Science Foundation last fall. Private contributions pushed the Delta RSI budget upward by another \$6.6 million.

Delta RSI is a five-year program designed to aid rural school districts with math and science instruction. According to Alexander, the program will provide Leadership Institutes, mini-grants, and field offices to assist school district leaders in the development of their math and science curricula and teaching skills.

Overall, 106 school districts in the Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi Delta region are slated to participate.

"There are a lot of issues about why these districts are in distress that have a whole lot more to do than just with math and science," Alexander said. "We are not just interested in coming in and putting a Band-Aid on something. We want what we do with the Initiative to have a lasting impact."

Alexander said the program will focus on Leadership Institutes as a means of making sure the effort has long-term

effects. "I see it's going to take a good five years at least to make the Initiative go, and then I hope by that time there will be structures and support mechanisms that sustain and strengthen what we initiate," he said.

Through the program, leaders from selected districts will meet to discuss new technology, curriculum, leadership skills, and a district action plan at weeklong institutes. "We will engage a third of them per year," Alexander said.

While Delta RSI personnel will lead the institutes, Alexander said interaction among local education leaders from different states and districts will perhaps be the most important benefit of the program. "The focal point is less us talking to them and more of them talking to each other," he said. "We're trying to build the knowledge and the skills for leadership in the districts."

While the Leadership Institutes will be emphasized during the first three years of the program, reinforcing district programs and supplying mini-grants will be the focus during the final two years, according to Alexander.

Thirty-six districts will be invited to participate in the first two Leadership Institutes in Arkansas and Louisiana. Delta RSI is projected to affect nearly a quarter million rural K-12 students.

"We want what we do with the Initiative to have a lasting impact."

CHARLES ALEXANDER
PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

New Chairs Bring Talents to Ole Miss

BY CATHERINE MAURIN

The departments of Art and Journalism welcomed newcomers to campus for the 1997-98 academic year, filling Chair vacancies with scholars who are approaching their work with enthusiasm and creativity.

"Moving to Oxford has been great. People have been so warm and welcoming," says Jan Murray, a graphic designer whose lengthy association with Yale University came to an end last summer when she packed her bags and moved south to chair the Art Department at Ole Miss.

As a member of the faculty at the Yale School of Art since 1987, Murray taught graphic design and typography to undergraduate and graduate students. She was a College Dean, a member of the graphic design faculty, and director of undergraduate studies for the art major.

With bachelor's and MFA degrees from Yale, Murray has also worked as a senior graphic designer for *Weekly Reader*, a graphic design consultant, director of the Migrations Project: Folk Arts to Enhance the Curriculum, and coordinator of special programs for the James Weldon Johnson Collection at Yale.

Murray, whose special interests include community-oriented design and outreach and interdisciplinary projects involving folk arts and poetry, holds a broad view of the value of art education.

"I feel that art courses offer all kinds of students a very special liberal arts experience," she says. Studying art can enrich students' experiences and help them discover their role in society. "In all our classes we want to provide a nurturing environment for creative work—a place where people develop critical cognitive skills and self-discipline as well as self-expression and creativity."

* * *

"Ole Miss has been dear to me all my life," says Journalism's new chair, Stuart Bullion, who lived in Oxford as a boy and started kindergarten on the UM campus. Though his

family left Oxford thereafter to follow his father's military career, Bullion has held Ole Miss in high esteem for many years.

His mother, Maralyn Howell Bullion, is an Oxford native and an Ole Miss graduate who holds the distinction of being the first female president of the student body. Bullion's grandfather, James B. Howell, served as Lafayette County Chancery Clerk during the 1950s. Because his grandparents lived in Oxford, Bullion visited regularly through the years.

Bullion holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in mass communication from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree from Princeton University. His teaching interests include reporting, communication law, and media ethics. His research has focused primarily on international issues.

Most recently chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism at the University of Maine, Bullion has taught at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., and at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He is a former editor of the St. Louis Park (Minn.) Sun, and he has served more than 25 years in the U.S. Army on active and reserve duty.

Bullion has several goals for the Journalism Department. He wants to make sure the curriculum is the best that can be offered to prepare students for jobs in the 21st century. He

also plans to focus on fund-raising to strengthen resources and offer better opportunities for students.

"I would like to see a particular focus on encouraging more Mississippi students to join the program and also to increase the diversity of our student body," he says.

Bullion also wants to renew and expand contacts with alumni and with the print and broadcast media. Efforts to renew contacts are especially significant in the coming months, as the Department of Journalism celebrates its 50th anniversary.



New department chairs Janice W. Murray (above) in Art and Stuart J. Bullion (below) in Journalism.

Getting Wired Technology in the Classroom

BY MARY MORGAN BLACKBURN, MAUREEN KENNEDY, AND JAIME PHILLIPS

Picture this: French students at The University of Mississippi surfing the Internet to visit the Louvre or study a menu at a Paris restaurant. Social work majors searching the net to research questions posted by their professor on an e-mail listserv. Psychology students designing experiments and collecting and analyzing data on-line.

Sound futuristic? Welcome to wired education—not a coming innovation but a current trend around the Grove.

Indeed, the computer revolution is in full swing on campus. From networking assignments to exploring foreign culture, today's students are using computers for class work in ways parents and even recent alumni never imagined possible.

Computers, in fact, are no longer a luxury in many courses. For successful completion of assignments, they often are a necessity. Professors who recognize their valuable role in the educational process are developing innovative ways to include computers in their lesson plans.

*The
computer revolution
is in full swing on
the UM campus.*

Jim Stafford, for one, is making use of e-mail to communicate with his students. The assistant professor of social work has established a listserv, a method for creating what amounts to an e-mail group. He posts assignments for his students on the listserv, and they search the Internet for answers to the problems Stafford assigns. For a fall field-work project in Tunica, Stafford posted messages for his students through the listserv, a more efficient method than saving the information for a class meeting.

"Students have grasped the whole concept more easily than I thought they would," he said.

"I was surprised to find that more than half of the students had already accessed their e-mail before the class started."

In the Department of Modern Languages, Michael Danahy and Laurie McLary are using electronic teaching on a daily basis. They assign on-line visits to Internet sites to students who are in at least their second year of French or German.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 10]

New Chairs in Chemistry, Physics No Strangers to UM Campus

Charles L. Hussey, an Ole Miss chemistry faculty member since 1978, became chairman of the department last August. He replaced Andrew Stefani, who retired June 30, 1997.

Physics and Astronomy also found a new chairman within the department—Thomas C. Marshall, a faculty member since 1981.

Hussey, whose research specialty is the electrochemistry of chloroaluminate molten salts, is the author of more than 80 articles in refereed journals. He also has written numerous book chapters, many with student coauthors. With B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from The

University of Mississippi, Hussey stresses the importance of good teaching and student involvement in research in the department. His commitment to students resulted in one of his recent awards, the 1996 Faculty Achievement Award for outstanding teaching, research, and service.

Marshall, who has a Ph.D. in atmospheric physics from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, joined The University of Mississippi faculty upon completion of his doctorate. His research focuses on learning how thunderstorms electrify, a challenging pursuit involving balloon-borne instruments that measure the electric field inside storms and the charge carried by precipitation particles.

Marshall has been a Summer Faculty Fellow at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and a visiting scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. He has published widely in scholarly journals and received research grants from the National Science Foundation, NASA, and other respected sources.

Updating Classics

Renewed Interest in the Ancient World

BY BRANDI TOLBERT

New courses—with names like *Women in Antiquity*, *Sports in the Ancient World*, and the *Mask of Dionysus*—and an award-winning home page on the Internet indicate the face of change in the Department of Classics these days. Studying ancient life and culture isn't an antiquated pursuit, faculty members say, and they aim to prove it.

Record enrollments in classics courses during the Fall 1997 semester suggest that Ole Miss students are getting the message. The number of students taking Greek, Latin, and Classical Civilization courses was up 46 percent from Fall 1996, representing a 10 percent increase over the previous record set in 1991, according to the department's attractive, informative home page.

Along with new courses and more students, the department is benefiting from new forms of private support. For the 1997-98 academic year, the Classics Department awarded its first Way, Jackson and Leavell Scholarship, supported by a recently created fund for the study of the classics. Ivy J. Huggins of Southaven, Miss., a double major in classics and biology and a member of the Honors College, received the first award. She plans a career in medicine.

Robert N. Leavell, a former professor of law at the University of Georgia, established the fund with his private gift to the department. The scholarship is named after three long-time Latin teachers: Evelyn Way, former chair of the Department of Classics, and Harriet Jackson and Grace Farley Leavell, teachers at University High School. Additional gifts are helping the fund grow.

One of the most visible changes in the Department of Classics was the recent move to new quarters on campus. The department is now based in the newly renovated McDonnell-Barksdale Honor College building, directly behind Farley Hall.

The energy demonstrated by all of these activities has not been lost on students, who are discovering new ways to consider the value of studying the ancient world.

"So far the department has had great input from the students," said Robert A. Moysey, chair of the Classics Department. "We hope to pull in even more students with the diversity of the new classes." To strengthen the standard curriculum, the department has added seven new courses for the 1997-98 school year.

According to James C. Barrett, an assistant professor of classics, most of the new classes are simply different approaches to introducing ancient and modern Greek and Roman drama, art, literature, politics, and people. Each class is designed to appeal to a broad range of students. Barrett, who teaches two of the courses, says he believes the students will begin to see that classical topics are very much alive and relevant in today's world.

Aileen Ajootian, an assistant professor of classics and art who teaches four of the new classes, envisions continued growth for the classics program as more students learn the benefits of studying the past. "Classics can broaden the creative, systematic, and analytical thinking skills," Ajootian said. In addition, "travel abroad opportunities are available that can make your life richer and help create enriching experiences."

Students seem to agree with Ajootian's assessment. "I feel like the Greek mythology course I am currently taking has broadened my understanding of the ways of the entire world," said Amy Sims, a sophomore from Jackson, Miss. "I am not confined to the beliefs and cultures of only North Americans. I can now communicate with other parts of the world and understand different backgrounds."

The department's energetic, modern approach to the



Peleus, from wedding vase (detail of an Attic red-figured lebes gamikos). About 500 b.c. University Museums, University of Mississippi, from the David M. Robinson Collection. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peddle Jr.

ancient world is readily apparent in its Internet home page (www.olemiss.edu/depts/classics). Cited by Netguide as one of the top seven classics home pages in the country, keeping company with Amherst, UCLA, the University of Chicago, and the University of Texas at Austin, the Web site is both well designed and informative. David Webb, a classics graduate student, is the force behind the site, which Netguide commended in particular for its photographs of prized pieces from the D. M. Robinson Collection.

The Robinson Collection of Greek and Roman antiquities, a valuable asset for classics students and scholars at UM, is considered to be the best of its kind in the South. Housed in the University Museums, the extensive collection of more than 2,000 objects includes Greek vases of all periods, Greek and Roman sculpture, bronzes, terracottas, inscriptions, coins, lamps, and household objects.

Robinson Collection information is available on-line (www.olemiss.edu/depts/classics/robinson) and 48 of the Robinson vases can be viewed on the Perseus home page under "Art and Archaeology/Vases Database" (www.perseus.tufts.edu/art&arch.html).

Included in the Classics Department's on-line information is a notable project, a cyberspace revival of *Vox*, the department's newsletter for Mississippi teachers produced in the 1930s and periodically in the 1940s. Alexander L. Bondurant, dean of the Graduate School and professor of Latin, first edited *Vox*. The current version carries this message: "A modest beginning to the idea of resurrecting this long-defunct source of news, we hope it will grow and become a more general newsletter presenting information about things Greek and Roman in Mississippi, the South, and the nation."

Ferris Goes to Washington to Direct NEH

William Ferris, director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at The University of Mississippi, is the new chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Appointed by President Bill Clinton, the folklorist, author, and filmmaker sailed through the confirmation process and was sworn in just before Thanksgiving.

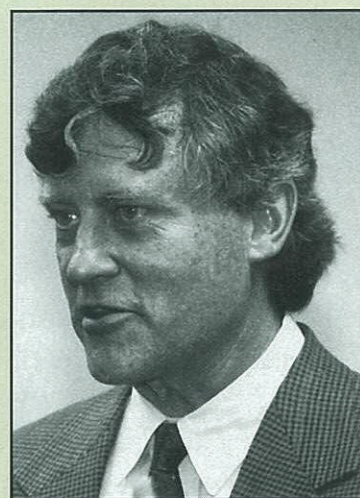
Ferris, a professor of anthropology who has directed the center since 1979, has brought acclaim to the University's role in regional studies and successfully engendered broader recognition and understanding of the cultural image of the South.

"As the director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and co-editor of the critically acclaimed *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*," said Chancellor Robert C. Khayat, "Bill Ferris has not only garnered the level of serious academic study our region deserves but also has enhanced the public's understanding and respect for it."

"I believe the outstanding support that The University of Mississippi faculty, staff, and administration have given the center over the past two decades is a significant part of why I've been asked to serve," Ferris said. "My consideration for this honor reflects the esteem our nation feels for the University and Oxford."

A native of Vicksburg, Ferris has degrees in English literature from Davidson College and Northwestern University. He studied at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and he received a master's degree and a Ph.D. in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania. After teaching at Jackson State University and Yale University, Ferris began his long tenure as director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

A documentary filmmaker, he also is the author of more than 100 publications in the fields of folklore, American literature, fiction, and photography. He was made a "Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters" in 1985 and an "Officer in the Order of Arts and Letters" in 1994 by the French government. In 1995 President Bill Clinton gave Ferris the Charles Frankel Award for excellence in the humanities.



Johnson Holds Cook Chair in Journalism

BY SUSAN COLLINS

John Johnson, a former executive editor of the *Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Miss., is the second Kelly Gene Cook Chair in Journalism at The University of Mississippi. The Chair, endowed by a \$1 million gift from the Cook Foundation, brings experienced journalism professionals to teach at the Oxford campus.

After being in the newspaper business for 25 years, Johnson said teaching is a refreshing change for him. He teaches two classes, works with the *Daily Mississippian*, and is involved with the University of Mississippi Foundation as a consultant.

Johnson graduated from Ole Miss in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. After four years in the Air Force, he worked for newspapers in Nashville, Tenn.; Binghamton, N.Y.; Newark, Ohio; and Cocoa, Fla. He was also the managing editor for the *Jackson Daily News* from 1982 to 1985. While at the *Daily News*, he was a member of the team that won a Pulitzer Prize for public service for a campaign to improve education in Mississippi.

Johnson became interested in a journalism career when

he worked for a weekly paper in his hometown of Natchez during his senior year of high school. While studying journalism at UM, he worked on the *Daily Mississippian* for three years and served as managing editor his junior year.

"We're not only happy but very fortunate to have John Johnson on the staff because he is a strong supporter of Ole Miss and the Journalism Department," said Stuart Bullion, chair of the department.

Johnson follows Mississippi journalist Sid Salter, who held the Cook Chair during the 1996-97 academic year. After the current academic year, the chair will be filled by a full-time permanent appointment.

The Kelly Gene Cook Chair is endowed by a \$1 million gift from the Cook Foundation, the largest gift ever made to the Journalism Department. Cook, a native of Attala County, died in 1989, ending a 30-year career as an oil and gas executive in Houston, Texas. The Cook Foundation supports religious, charitable, scientific, and educational organizations.

Technology in the Classroom [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7]

For example, Danahy provides his French students with a list of Web site addresses so that France can be experienced more directly. By downloading data compiled across the ocean, his students can get the true flavor of another culture. They can read French restaurant menus, go shopping in French department stores, and visit French museums.

Danahy also requires his French students to complete journal entries by e-mail. Danahy responds to each student's entry electronically, correcting grammar and addressing the content. In advanced French culture courses, students also write term paper "possiers" that require on-line sources.

With the assistance of a \$217,600 federal grant, two other UM professors are taking electronic teaching to a higher level. Kenneth McGraw, professor of psychology, is working with Mark Tew, associate professor of electrical engineering, to create PsychExps, a Web site that will serve as a virtual laboratory for psychology experiments.

With the convenience of the new virtual lab, students will access the University home page on the Internet, pull up the PsychExps program, perform the required exercises, and send the data to their instructor—all without leaving their keyboard.

The project is funded by a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education and an estimated \$67,500 from University in-kind contributions. McGraw and Tew plan to touch up the on-line experiments during the first year, then spend the next two years developing outreach and training programs for other institutions across the country.

Historic Hall [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

Civil War and was the ideal place for the memorial, donated by the sorority members of Delta Gamma.

Among other pieces of history that had to be incorporated were signatures that don the walls surrounding the spiral staircase running through the upper part of Ventress. The oldest signature, at the top of the staircase, dates back to 1898.

"We had a big desire not to compromise the historic beauty of the building," said Jonathan Mattox of Howorth & Associates. "We also wanted to replace some of the long-destroyed features of the building." These included round turrets that are once again visible on the roof. Architects duplicated the turrets by looking at pictures from the early 1900s.

Davidson Chair Enriches Medical Discourse on Campus

BY LYNN MCKNIGHT

When Dr. and Mrs. L. Stacy Davidson Jr. gave \$1 million to create an endowment that would fund visiting lecturers for the College of Liberal Arts, they thanked Ole Miss for "opening doors" in their lives. Davidson, a physician who holds undergraduate and medical degrees from the University, added that if one student's mind was stimulated as a result of the gift, he would be satisfied.

The Cleveland, Mississippi, ophthalmologist can be certain that more than a few minds were enriched when Dr. Todd L. Savitt, the first L. Stacy Davidson Jr.

Chair in Liberal Arts, came to campus last

spring. Savitt, a historian of medicine

who has taught medical humanities

courses for 20 years, did much more

than present the required public lec-

ture, though he did that too. The

professor involved his students in

an unusually engaging approach

to medical issues: he gave them

scripts and put them on stage.

While on campus, Savitt led

readers theater presentations of

three stories with medical themes.

After the readings, Savitt engaged

the cast and audience in discussions of

the issues raised.

Savitt, who has a Ph.D. in American

history from the University of Virginia and

studied medicine for three years, has been con-

ducting similar presentations since 1988 at East Carolina

University, where he teaches medical humanities and

history courses. He considers these discussions valuable

for young future physicians, who hear how people view

doctors and their practices, the role of medicine, and

human life and death.

By the same token, in Rosemarie Tong's medical ethics class this spring students delved into diverse topics—genetic screening, abortion, assisted suicide, in vitro fertilization, and more—with intense interest. "This is not just an abstract exercise to them," said the Thatcher

Professor in Medical Humanities and Philosophy at Davidson College, who held the L. Stacy Davidson

Chair for Spring 1998. "These are questions they really want to answer."

"I'm quite impressed with the quality of the students," said Tong, whose large-windowed office in the newly established McDonnell-Barksdale Honors College looked out on a busy campus. Tong, a prolific author and an energetic speaker, also taught an honors seminar that examined "the paradigms that rule science and rule religion and how the different ways of constructing them may

arise," she said. "We asked questions about faith

and revelation and so on, and their relation-

ship to the paradigm of science, which is

about prediction."

Tong, who in addition to her

scholarly work has been an ethics

consultant for a variety of medical

panels and institutions, also delivered

two major public lectures on

campus during the semester.

"To me, this has been a very,

very good experience," Tong said.

She mentioned her favorable

impressions of the high level of

classroom discussion, the dedication

to scholarship reflected in the new

Honors College, and the impressive

devotion of her teaching colleagues. But

the students themselves stood out in her

mind.

"I've gotten to know some students well," said

Tong, whose interest extended beyond the classroom. "A

couple of times we've gone to Smitty's for breakfast to

talk about issues that concern them." These ranged from

one young man's interest in alternative, or integrative,

medicine to a young woman's questions about how to

combine a career in philosophy with her desire to have a

solid family life.

Without a doubt, visiting scholars Tong and Savitt

have helped to stimulate young minds in ways that could

well open many doors for their University of Mississippi

students, ensuring a solid foundation for the legacy of the

Davidson Chair.

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notations

AEROSPACE STUDIES MARKS AIR FORCE'S 50TH
One of the most distinguished graduates of the Ole Miss Air Force ROTC program returned to campus in September 1997 to join cadets and cadre members in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force. Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, a 1965 graduate of the AFROTC program, was guest speaker at a special dinner during the Sept. 17-18 event. As vice commander of the Air Force Reserve, Gen. Sherrard is responsible for more than 300 combat-capable aircraft and more than 50,000 personnel at installations across the United States.

The Department of Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC) also hosted the area gathering for the Arnold Air Society, AFROTC's national honorary society, during October. More than 80 cadets from 14 colleges and universities in the Southeast attended the three-day event. The occasion marked the first time Ole Miss has served as host for the event.

ART PROFESSOR EDITS BOOK OF PHOTOGRAPHS
Tom Rankin, associate professor of art and Southern studies, is the editor of a new book of photographs released in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of William Faulkner's birth. *Faulkner's World: The Photographs of Martin J. Dain*, published by the University Press of Mississippi and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss, features images from Oxford and the surrounding area taken during the last two years of Faulkner's life, 1961-62.

Dain, a native of Massachusetts who now lives in Carmel Valley, Calif., traveled to Mississippi to photograph Yoknapatawpha country because he revered the author's writing.

Rankin, a photographer and a folklorist, also wrote the introduction for the book, which includes a foreword by Oxford author Larry Brown.

CHEMISTRY FACULTY RECEIVES RECOGNITION
More than half the faculty members in the Department of Chemistry have won awards for their teaching—a clear sign of the department's commitment to undergraduate education beyond the research laboratory. In 1997, Walter E. Cleland Jr. won the Cora Lee Graham Award for Outstanding Teacher of Freshmen, an annual award in the College of Liberal Arts that has been won by a chemistry faculty member four out of the last 10 times it has been given. Also in 1997, Kwang S. Yun won the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society Award for Best Freshman Teacher.

HUSSEY CHAIRS GORDON CONFERENCE
Charles L. Hussey, professor and chairman of the Chemistry Department, chaired a prestigious Gordon Conference at New England College in Henniker, N.H., in

August 1997. The Gordon Research Conferences, established in 1931, provide an international forum for the presentation and discussion of frontier research in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences. In August, Hussey chaired the Gordon Research Conference on Molten Salts and Liquid Metals. The conference included 23 invited speakers and 78 registered participants from Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and the United States.

HANNAH RECEIVES AWARD



Barry Hannah, Ole Miss writer-in-residence, traveled to France, on the centennial of William Faulkner's birth to receive the prestigious Faulkner Award for Literature. Given by the William Faulkner Foundation of Rennes, France, the award promotes American Southern studies and honors the work of Southern writers.

Hannah, the author of *Airships*, *Ray*, *Bats Out of Hell*, and other books, has also been previously honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Hannah is taking a leave of absence this spring to be acting director of the renowned University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. Replacing Hannah for the semester is Oxford writer Larry Brown, author of *Facing the Music*, *Dirty Work*, *Joe*, and *Father and Son*. (Barry Hannah photograph by Bruce Newman.)

CONFERENCE CELEBRATES FAULKNER'S BIRTH

The largest gathering of Faulkner scholars ever assembled in the 24-year history of the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference met last summer to celebrate the centennial of the American novelist's birth. Twenty-three of the world's leading Faulknerians gathered at The University of Mississippi to assess the writer's life and work.

"Faulkner at 100: Retrospect and Prospect" featured special exhibits, readings, and presentations. The program included a number of formal lectures and five panel presentations devoted to the following topics: the ultimate value of Faulkner's achievement, the shape of his career, his place in the American literary tradition, neglected aspects of his work, and new biographical dimensions.

Special guests included novelist and critic Albert Murray; Martin J. Dain, who photographed Faulkner and his county in the early 1960s and whose work was exhib-



ited during the conference; and novelist and short story writer Randall Kenan. Kenan is the Southern writer in residence at the University for 1997-98, a rotating position supported by a generous gift from Renee and John Grisham. The

topic for the 25th conference, scheduled for July 26-31, 1998, will be "Faulkner & America." (Randall Kenan photograph by Tim Smith.)

HISTORY SYMPOSIUM EXAMINES SOUTHERN GENDER
"Gender and the Southern Body Politic," the topic for the 1997 Porter L. Fortune Jr. History Symposium, inspired provocative presentations and lively discussion during the Oct. 1-3 gathering on the Ole Miss campus. New scholarship in the past five years suggests the importance of gender in the construction of power and politics in the South. The symposium brought some of these scholars together to examine this new direction in Southern history.

Nancy Bercaw, assistant professor of history at Ole Miss, organized the program. The goal, she said, was "to bring together recent work using gender to challenge our understanding of how power was constituted in the South from the colonial period to the present." Bercaw is editing the papers and the comments for a book to be published by the University Press of Mississippi.

WILSON NAMED BEST HUMANITIES TEACHER

The Mississippi Humanities Council named Charles R. Wilson, professor of history and Southern studies, the Outstanding Humanities Teacher of 1997 at The University of Mississippi. Wilson, an expert in Southern religious and cultural history who has taught at Ole Miss since 1981, is the author of *Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis* and *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause*. He is co-editor, with William Ferris, of the award-winning *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. Wilson also directs the graduate program in Southern studies. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas at El Paso and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

JOURNALISM PROFESSOR'S FILM WINS AWARD
The Ballad of Jeremiah Gage, a 45-minute documentary based on the true story of a Holmes county native who was a UM student in 1861, won a second-place award at the Silver State Documentary Festival at the University of Las Vegas. Charles Raiteri, assistant professor of journalism at The University of Mississippi, made the film, which traces the wartime experience of Gage through letters he sent home. Gage and other Ole Miss students were members of the University Greys, Company A of the 11th Mississippi Infantry of the Confederate Army. UNLV-TV, the prime cable network in southern Nevada, will air Raiteri's documentary four times before the end of May 1998.

MATH DEPARTMENT PROPOSES HUME Chair
The Department of Mathematics has proposed the creation and endowment of a Chair in Mathematics to be named for

DEPARTMENT

Chancellor Alfred Hume. Hume's long and devoted service to The University of Mississippi included time as professor of mathematics and chairman of the department.

For more information, write to the Department of Mathematics, 305 Hume Hall, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, call 601-232-7065, or send an e-mail to mdepart@olemiss.edu.

ARMY ROTC INSTITUTES INTERNET PAGE

Besides training cadets, the Department of Military Science (Army ROTC) has been upgrading its computer capability and winning recognition for its overall program. Within the past year, the department has gone fully on-line with its ROTC home page, which can be accessed through The University of Mississippi Internet site (www.olemiss.edu). In a recent gathering of representatives from the 23 schools in their brigade, which includes Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and northwest Florida, the UM battalion won top honors in three out of five categories, missing first place in a fourth category by a hundredth of a point.

MISSISSIPPI WIND BAND RECORDS CONCERT

Mark Howle, assistant professor of music, conducted the Mississippi Wind Band, 48 of Mississippi's finest musicians who gathered for the first time to perform together at the Corinth Civic Coliseum. The musicians, who came from university faculties and from symphonies across the state, used 24 instruments, including some unusual additions to the typical wind ensemble (bass and soprano saxophone, harp, and string bass, for example).

The concert, sponsored by The University of Mississippi, will be produced as a compact disc.

The CD was scheduled to be released this spring. For more information contact Mark Howle, Johnson Commons, Room 203, University, MS 38677, or send an e-mail message to mhowle@olemiss.edu.

SEWELL SERVES ON LICENSURE BOARD

Billie Jean Sewell, chair and associate professor of social work, has been named to the state licensure board created by the Mississippi Legislature to handle regulatory affairs covering social workers and marriage and family therapists.

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY ACHIEVEMENTS

Max Williams, acting chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and director of the UM Center for Population Studies, is assisting the Mississippi governor's office in developing programs to promote a Complete Count Plan for Census 2000 for the state of Mississippi. Among other strategies, the plan will focus on segments of the population that have been undercounted historically, including college students, minorities, and children.

Vaughn Grisham, associate professor of sociology,

recently completed two books, *It Can Be Done!* and *Beyond Boosterism: A Model for Community Development*. Grisham, director of the George McLean Center for Community Development at Ole Miss, is also involved in active community projects in 12 states.

Robert Thorne, professor of anthropology, received a Special Achievement Award from the Society of Professional Archaeologists for his continued work in the area of in situ archaeological site conservation and preservation. The award was presented at the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Nashville.

new faculty

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS, 1997-98

(Tenure Track)

ART

DR. BOB CROMER, assistant professor (art education). B.S., Indiana Wesleyan; M.A.E. and Ed.D., Ball State University. Cromer comes to UM from the art faculty at Baylor University. PROFESSOR JANICE MURRAY, professor and chair. B.A. and M.F.A., Yale University. Murray joins the UM faculty from Yale University, where she served as Dean of Davenport College and Director of Undergraduate Studies. She was a member of the Graphic Design faculty in the Yale School of Art since 1987.

BIOLOGY

DR. ANDREW CRAIN, assistant professor (in the field of zoology). B.S., Clemson University; M.S. and Ph.D., University of Florida.

JOURNALISM

DR. STUART BULLION, professor and chair. Baccalaureate, Princeton University; M.A. and Ph.D., University of Minnesota. Bullion comes to UM from the University of Maine, where he was chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism.

MATHEMATICS

DR. MARY LANE BAGGETT, assistant professor. B.S., University of South Carolina; M.S., University of Tennessee; M.S. and Ph.D., Florida State University. DR. TRISTAN DENLEY, assistant professor. B.S., University of Exeter; Ph.D., Cambridge University. Denley has held post-doctoral appointments at Umea University in Sweden and the University of Waterloo in Canada. DR. SHIRIN HANDJANI, assistant professor. B.A., California State University at Northridge; Ph.D., UCLA. Handjani has taught at the University of San Diego and the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

MUSIC

DR. CHRISTOPHER DALE WHITE, assistant professor. B.A. and M.M.Ed., University of Northern Colorado; D.M.A., University of Colorado, Boulder. White has served in the

faculties of the University of Northern Colorado, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Fort Hays State University, and Armstrong Atlantic State University. BRADLEY ROBINSON, assistant professor (studio voice and diction). B.M.Ed., Fort Hayes State University; M.Mus., Florida State University; doctoral student at University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

HOLLY REYNOLDS, assistant professor. B.A., Louisiana State University; Ph.D., Rice University.

PSYCHOLOGY

DR. SAMUEL M. ALLEN, assistant professor. B.A., Liberty University; M.A. and Ph.D., University of Mississippi. Since 1993, Allen has been affiliated with the North Mississippi Regional Center in Oxford.

SOUTHERN STUDIES/ANTHROPOLOGY

DR. ROBBIE ETHRIDGE, McMullan assistant professor of Southern studies and assistant professor of anthropology. B.A., M.A., and Ph.D., University of Georgia. Ethridge has served as an ethnohistorian for two Georgia firms.

SOUTHERN STUDIES/ENGLISH

DR. KATHRYN MCKEE, McMullan assistant professor of Southern studies and assistant professor of English. B.A., Centre College; M.A. and Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. McKee recently taught writing and humanities at Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

THEATRE ARTS

MARY COY, assistant professor (voice). B.A., Mount Holyoke. Coy has served on the faculties of the University of Syracuse and the University of Virginia Law School. MICHELLE CUOMO, assistant professor (acting). B.A., College of LaRochelle; M.F.A., Ohio State University. Cuomo has 10 years of acting experience in New York and has appeared on TV shows and in feature films. MARY DEIGHTON, assistant professor (costume technology). B.F.A. and M.F.A., North Carolina School of the Arts. Deighton was most recently associated with the Colorado Shakespeare Company. DEX EDWARDS, assistant professor. B.F.A. and M.F.A., University of Mississippi. For the past nine years, Edwards has been associated with the Virginia State Company and the Actors Collective and the Alliance Theatre Company, both in Atlanta.

tenure and promotions

GRANTED TENURE

ROBERT BROWN, assistant professor of political science
VIRGINIA DALE, assistant professor of music
WADE IRVIN, associate professor of music
ALFRED MIKELL, assistant professor of biology

DEPARTMENTS

MARVIN OVERBY, associate professor of political science
DAVID WILLSON, assistant professor of music

GRANTED PROMOTIONS

JEANNI ATKINS, to associate professor, journalism
JOSEPH ATKINS, to associate professor, journalism
ROBERT BROWN, to associate professor, political science
VIRGINIA DALE, to associate professor, music
DAVID GRAVES, to professor, chemistry
COLBY KULLMAN, to professor, English
WILLIAM LAWHEAD, to professor, philosophy
ALFRED MIKELL, to associate professor, biology
GARY MILLER, to professor, biology
STACY RODGERS, to associate professor, music
SHEILA SKEMP, to professor, history
DAVID WILLSON, to associate professor, music

faculty sabbaticals

Ten of the 15 University faculty members granted sabbatical leaves for 1997-98 are members of the College of Liberal Arts faculty. The professors, and their academic projects, are:

DR. ROBERT D. BROWN (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

To conduct a research project titled "Registration, Turnout, and Ballot Roll-Off: Contest-Level Models of Voter Participation in Subpresidential Elections." Fall Semester.

DR. CHARLES W. EAGLES (HISTORY)

To complete a book-length study of the integration of The University of Mississippi. Spring Semester.

DR. WILLIAM R. FERRIS (ANTHROPOLOGY)

To complete a manuscript containing interviews of writers, musicians, scholars, and photographers who have made significant contributions to understanding the American South. Fall Semester.

DR. ELLEN F. GARDINER (ENGLISH)

To continue a book-length project on 18th-century British biography. Spring Semester.

DR. CORNELIS W. R. GISPEN (HISTORY)

To complete the manuscript for a book titled *National Socialism and the Politics of Invention in Germany, 1900-1960*. Academic Year.

DR. COLBY H. KULLMAN (ENGLISH)

To begin work on a book-length project called *Tennessee Williams' Mississippi Delta*, to develop a new course called "The Drama of the American South," to finish bibliographic chapters for *Tennessee Williams: A Guide to Research and Performance*, and to make progress on a book-length critical text on "Satiric Motifs in Popular Culture." Academic Year.

DR. MICHAEL V. NAMORATO (HISTORY)

To complete a book manuscript on all economic depressions in American history from the time of the Articles of Confederation to the present day. Fall Semester.

MR. GREGORY W. SHELNUTT (ART)

To serve as an Artist-in-Residence at Duncan of Jordanstone College in Dundee, Scotland, and to plan a research project that will seek to identify sculptors' relationships to material culture. Spring Semester.

DR. WILLIAM A. STATON (MATHEMATICS)

To study, through a graph-theoretic approach, a conjecture by Paul Erdos on packings of the unit square, resulting in journal articles, and to conduct a study of the techniques of probabilistic, nonconstructive existential proofs in graphic theory and combinatorics. Academic Year.

DR. STEPHEN T. THRELKELD (BIOLOGY)

To write a book on the design of experiments and to develop multimedia presentation modules for instructors using the book. Spring Semester.

EVANS HARRINGTON

(1925-1997)

Dr. Evans B. Harrington, who chaired the University's Department of English from 1978 through 1988, died in Oxford on Dec. 1, 1997. During his tenure as chair he did much to shape the department as it exists today. He retired in 1989 but continued to teach part time in emeritus status during summers until 1993.

Following wartime naval service, Dr. Harrington completed a B.A. at Mississippi College and an M.A. in English at The University of Mississippi. He became an instructor in English at the University in 1955, when he began work on a Ph.D. He progressed through the academic ranks, becoming a full professor in 1970.

An established author after the publication of his novel, *The Prisoners*, in 1956, Dr. Harrington taught courses in creative writing, American literature, criticism, and modern poetry. Along with exemplary handling of administrative duties and teaching, he was active in promoting writers conferences, annual meetings of the Southern Literary Festival, and comparable gatherings. He was instrumental in founding the University's annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, which over the past quarter-century has gained national and international acclaim.

In another capacity, Dr. Harrington was active in faculty affairs. His was a strong voice for liberalism during the crisis years of the early 1960s, when in Mississippi liberal voices were both few and suspect. It pleased him to see the moderation, racial tolerance, and diversity for which he spoke out in those days become in later years official University policy.

Dr. Harrington's deepest concern, however, was for his teaching; and thousands of his students remember him with respect, admiration, and affection, especially those who went on to practice or to teach the craft of writing. That is one legacy he left. Another is the Faulkner Conference. A third is the Evans Harrington Award in Creative Writing, supported by an endowment established in 1988 and currently being enhanced by memorial gifts made in his name. The award is given annually to a resident student at the University who has shown outstanding promise as a writer.

Dr. Harrington devoted the greater part of a long and productive life to The University of Mississippi, and the University community—past, present, and future—owes a debt of gratitude for his service.

obituaries

ALLEN CABANISS

(1911-1997)

Dr. Allen Cabaniss, historian of the University and research professor of history emeritus, died on Nov. 20, 1997, at the age of 85. Dr. Cabaniss retired from the active faculty in 1977 after a career of 31 years, including a three-year term as chair of the Department of History.

An ordained Presbyterian minister who served as a chaplain in World War II, Cabaniss held membership in Phi Beta Kappa and took degrees from Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College), Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and the University of Chicago. He was a prolific writer who was fond of quoting the dictum "No day without its line," and he published across a wide area, from the history of The University of Mississippi to biographies of Carolingian notables and studies of Christian liturgical patterns. Dr. Cabaniss's scholarly reputation in the field of medieval studies enjoyed both national and international attention.

Students and colleagues over a period of four decades will remember him for his gracious manner and steadfast opinion. His storehouse of knowledge allowed him free rein across the humanities and earned him a place in that post-war generation of University of Mississippi scholars known for their erudition and distinctive personalities. He will be missed by scores of friends, alumni, and scholarly associates.



VENTRESS ORDER OFFICERS



**L. STACY DAVIDSON JR.,
CHAIRMAN**

L. Stacy Davidson has three degrees from Ole Miss. He received his bachelor's in chemistry in 1953 and earned a medical certificate in 1955. Two years later Davidson received his doctor of medicine degree, graduating as vice president of the student body in the first class of the University's School of Medicine in Jackson. After two years of service in the U.S. Army and several years as a family practitioner, he returned to the University Medical Center to study ophthalmology.

Davidson has served as president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association, charter member and chairman of the Medical Guardian Society, president of his local alumni club, and member of the University Foundation's Board of Directors. He is a member of the Lyceum Society, a Pacesetter, a sustaining member of the Chancellor's Trust, a founding member of the Ole Miss Associates, and a member of the Loyalty Foundation, for which he also has served on the board.

In the fall of 1995, Davidson announced a \$1 million gift to the University that created an endowment to fund visiting lecturers within the College of Liberal Arts and gives the college other support. Davidson and his wife, Fay, have two children, John Stacy and Freley Spruill, both Ole Miss graduates. They also have four grandchildren.



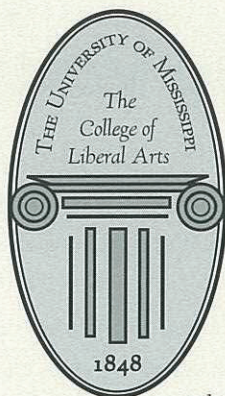
**LESLIE MCINTYRE DUKES,
VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Leslie McIntyre Dukes received her B.A. in English from Ole Miss in 1970. She has been an active member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Alumni Recruiting Team. Named Gulfport Outstanding Young Woman in 1981, she is dedicated to community service. She has served as president of the Gulfport Junior Auxiliary, PTA president, vestry member in her church, secretary of the Mississippi Tennis Association, and president of the Chi Omega Alumnae Association of Mississippi. She and her husband, James O. Dukes, have two children—Macon, an Ole Miss graduate, and Will, a high school senior.



**KIRK PURDOM,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Kirk Purdom received his B.A. from Ole Miss in 1993. He joined the Alumni Association staff in July 1995 as Alumni Assistant. In August 1997 he joined the Development staff as Advancement Associate for the College of Liberal Arts. His primary responsibilities include alumni relations and fund-raising for the College of Liberal Arts. He and his wife, Keil, have a 7-month-old daughter, Kie Ellen.



The Ventress Order

The Ventress Order is an organization established by The University of Mississippi Alumni Association in cooperation with The University of Mississippi Foundation. Named in honor of James Alexander Ventress, a founding father of the University, the Order administers substantial gifts for the benefit of the College of Liberal Arts to encourage its recognition as one of the outstanding education centers in the United States.

As professions in today's society assume more diverse and complex roles, so must The University of Mississippi College of Liberal Arts modify and expand its educational programs. Members of the Ventress Order will help to broaden the scope and content of these programs and to enhance the total offerings of the College of Liberal Arts.

For more information on the Ventress Order, please contact Kirk Purdom, Executive Secretary of the Ventress Order, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 39677, or call 1-800-340-9542.

MEMBERSHIP (as of May 26, 1998)

SUSTAINING MEMBERS The Sustaining Membership is made up of members of the Ventress Order who, upon satisfaction of their membership commitment, or in addition to such commitment, make a minimum monetary contribution of \$500 to the Order in a given year.

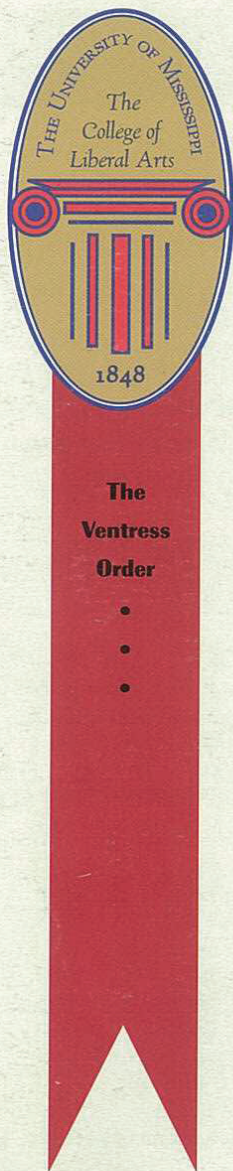
Barbara Arnold George S. Barnes Hardy M. Graham

REGULAR MEMBERS The Regular Membership is made up of members of the Ventress Order who make a minimum gift of \$5,000 payable over 10 years.

H. Dale Abadie	James H. Eley	Thomas and Anita Murphy
James Deloach Abbott	Robert S. Ellis	Charles E. Noyes
Sarah Price Armstrong	Esther Lewis Ethridge	Crymes G. Pittman
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James Arthur Autry	Margaret J. Gorove	James Hugh Ray
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Bailey	William W. Gresham, Jr.	Kelly Scott Segars, Jr.
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Fred E. Beemon, Jr.	Walter D. Gurley, Jr.	Norman E. Shaw
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Vasser Bishop	Jimmy L. Hamilton	J. George Smith, Jr.
Karen M. Bonner	Jordan H. Hankins	William and Carolyn Ellis
Louis K. Brandt	Katherine Hankins	Staton
David E. Brevard	Kirk Hannon	Ygondine W. Sturdivant
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Harold B. Burson	David Huey	Ancel C. Tipton, Jr.
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John Hubbard Cheatham	Charles L. Hussey	Thomas C. Turner
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L. Stacy Davidson	G. Scott Kent	Robert L. and Mary Ellen Warner
Michael and Wanda Dean	Robert C. Khayat	Lynn K. Whittington
Bart Delashment	Joseph C. Kiger	Curtis C. Wilkie, Jr.
Rex M. Deloach	Michael L. King	Joseph Kenneth Wong
S. Gale and Jo Ann Denley	Samuel and Leila Lane	3 Anonymous Member
Herbert and Dixie Dewees	William Lewis, Jr.	
W. W. Drinkwater	Wilton Lowell Marsalis	
James and Leslie Dukes	Keith Dockery McLean	
Allan Percy Durfey, Jr.	Ed and Becky Meek	
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AFFILIATE MEMBERS The Affiliate Membership classification encourages alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years to provide significant financial support for the College. This membership requires a minimum gift of \$1,000 payable over four years.

John J. Abadie	D. Pete and Allison Davis	John Kirkland Purdom
Doug Atkinson	William K. Griffin	Todd Alan Vinyard
Mary Terrell Cargill	William H. Keener, Jr.	Deborah C. West
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As professions in today's society assume more diverse and complex roles, so must The University of Mississippi College of Liberal Arts modify and expand its educational programs. Members of the Ventress Order will help to broaden the scope and content of these programs and to enhance the total offerings of the College of Liberal Arts.

Please support the work of The Ventress Order and The University of Mississippi by sending your tax-deductible contribution to: The University of Mississippi, Ventress Order, P.O. Box 8288, University, MS 38677.

Please return this portion with your gift and make check payable to THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION.

YES, I want to join other alumni and friends of The University of Mississippi College of Liberal Arts in support of academic excellence by making a contribution.

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